

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended in the telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned on November 30, 2005.

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 8, 2005. Claims 1-8 were pending. By this Amendment, new dependent claims 9-11 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-11 are now pending, with claims 1 and 5 being in independent form.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,148,118 to Murakami et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,450 to Ohsawa et al.

As discussed in the November 30, 2005 telephone interview, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 5 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to facsimile operations when a large-sized document (that is, having a width in a main scanning direction larger than an A3-sized width) is involved. Since some facsimile communications protocol permits A3-sized width as the maximum width of the transmitted document, the large-sized document needs to be divided or reduced to fit an A3-size page.

The present application proposes handling of the large-sized document by divisively reading lines of the image data in a sub-scanning direction by dividing the image data into divisional lines of data having a predetermined width. This feature is included in independent claims 1 and 5 of the present application. This approach is shown by way of example in Fig. 2 of the present application. In Fig. 2, an A2-size (which is twice the size of A3-size) subject copy is divided into a first read area and a second read area. Subscanning direction in Fig. 2 is shown to be left-right in Fig. 2. Since the reading is performed in a sub-scanning direction, the document

can be automatically scanned without manually splitting the large-sized document into two scanning jobs.

Murakami, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a photocopy apparatus having a conventional type platen glass which has a slightly larger than A3-size area (see Fig.3 of Murakami).

Murakami states as follows at column 6, lines 7-17:

In the large-size combination mode, a document larger than A3 and equal to or smaller than A2 is divided into two, read at a reduction magnification so that an overlap portion (a strip-shaped portion of width L from the lower edge of platen glass 27 in the case of reading the upper half of the document and a strip-shaped portion of width L from the top edge in the case of reading the lower half) is provided, and the read images are joined along a joining line produced as will be described within the overlap region to combine the images into a single image equal to or smaller than A3 to output.

In the apparatus of Murakami, each half of the large-sized document is manually placed on the glass and scanned in the conventional main scanning direction (left-to-right in Fig. 3 of Murakami).

Murakami, lines 40-45 proposes changing the speed of the drive motor of the scanning optical device from a reference speed to achieve a desired reduction of the image.

Applicant does not find teaching or suggestion in Murakami, however, of divisively reading lines of the image data in a sub-scanning direction by dividing the image data into divisional lines of data having a predetermined width, as provided by each of independent claims 1 and 5 of the present application.

Ohsawa, as understood by Applicant, is directed to an apparatus for encoding and decoding an input image and performing a rotation process on the input image. Ohsawa does not address the issue of a large-sized document.

Moreover, neither Murakami nor Ohsawa discloses or suggests divisively reading lines of

image data in a sub-scanning direction by dividing the image data into divisional lines of data having a predetermined width, as provided by each of independent claims 1 and 5 of the present application.

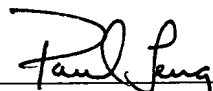
Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 5, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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